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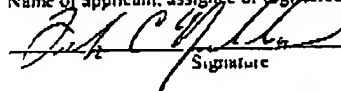
AUG 23 2004

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FRANK C. NICHOLAS (33983)

Name of applicant, assignee or registered representative


SignatureAugust 23, 2004

Date of Signature

OFFICIAL

PATENT
Case No. CML00826T
(9640/127)

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re patent application of:

STEVEN M. SCHEIFERS, ET AL.)

Examiner: Asinovsky, O.)

Serial No.: 10/631,374)

Group Art Unit: 1711)

Filed: JULY 31, 2003)

For: METHOD AND CHEMISTRY FOR)
AUTOMATIC SELF-JOINING)
OF FAILURES IN POLYMERS)

RESPONSE TO NON-COMPLIANT AMENDMENT
DATED AUGUST 19, 2004

Commissioner of Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

In response to the Notice of Non-Compliant Amendment dated August 19, 2004
and the Office Action dated May 20, 2004, please consider the following:

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INTRODUCTORY COMMENTS

The present amendment replies to a non-final Office Action dated May 20, 2004. Claims 1 - 22 are currently pending in the present application. Claims 8 - 22 have been withdrawn and claims 23 - 34 added.

In the Office Action, Examiner Asinovsky asserted the following rejections of pending claims 1 - 7:

A. Election/Restriction

1. Restriction to one of the following inventions is required under 35 U.S.C. 121:

I. Claims 1 - 7, drawn to a self-joining polymer composition, classified in class 523, subclass 200 and 201.

II. Claims 8 - 9 and 10 - 15, drawn to a method of using a self-joining polymer composition for healing a failure in a composite member, classified in class 523, subclass 200 and class 428, subclass 402.2.

III. Claims 16 - 18 and 19 - 22, drawn to an electronic package composition, classified in class 428, subclass 620.

2. Inventions of Group I and Group II are related as product and process of user.

3. Inventions of Group I and Group III are related as mutually exclusive species in an intermediate-final product relationship.

4. Inventions of Group II and Group III are related as subcombinations disclosed as usable together in a single combination.

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5. Because these inventions are distinct for the reasons given above and have acquired a separate status in the art because of their recognized divergent subject matter, restriction for examination purposes is proper.

6. During a telephone conversation with Frank Nicholas on May 14, 2004 a provisional election was made without traverse to prosecute the invention of Group I, claims 1 - 7.

B. Claims 1 - 7 are under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over White et al. U.S. Patent 6,518,330 or Guilbert et al. U.S. Patent 6,075,072, each in view of Arfaei U.S. Patent 4,960,465 or Aharoni U.S. Patent 5,326,830.

C. New claims 23 to 34 are patentable over the cited art.

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and further examination of the present application under 37 CFR §1.112.